

### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method of automatically assigning an internet protocol address to a device is provided. The method includes the steps of providing a network; providing a computer communicatively coupled to the network; providing a network adapter to communicatively couple the device to the network; the computer performing the steps

5 of generating an internet protocol address; incorporating the internet protocol address in an address resolution protocol probe; sending the address resolution protocol probe on the network; and determining whether a response to the address resolution protocol probe indicates that the internet protocol address is in use; wherein if the internet protocol address is not in use, then performing the step of assigning the internet

10 protocol address to the network adapter.

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